

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EB-03 INR-05 SSO-00

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P 220922Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0606

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 17888

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, RP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TANCO TO U.S.

FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON AND SECRETARY BUTZ

REF: MANILA 17872 (TOFAS 223)

1. DURING RECENT VISITS TO MANILA, EX-AMBASSADOR EDWIN MARTIN AND NATHANIEL KOFFSKY BOTH URGED PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ARTURO TANCO TO PRESENT HIMSELF AS A CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED JOHN HANNAH IN LATTER'S CURRENT POSITION WITH WORLD FOOD PROGRAM WHICH HE UNDERSTANDS HANNAH WILL RESIGN.

2. TANCO HAS INFORMED ME ON DECEMBER 22 THAT HE IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS MAKING SUCH A MOVE AND HAS RECEIVED THE APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT MARCOS FOR THIS EFFORT. ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTANDS THAT IT WOULD BE THE KISS OF DEATH FOR HIM TO HAVE PUBLIC U.S. ENDORSEMENT FOR THIS POSITION, HE DOES NOT RPT NOT WISH TO BEGIN A SERIOUS CAMPAIGN EFFORT UNLESS HE KNOWS THAT THE U.S. WILL EVENTUALLY SUPPORT HIM IN THE SELECTION PROCESS.

3. TANCO IS TRAVELLING TO WASHINGTON DECEMBER 23 TO
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SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH HIS CHILDREN. THE ONLY BUSINESS

DAYS WHEN HE WILL BE THERE ARE DECEMBER 29 AND 30. ON ONE OF THOSE DAYS, HE WILL CALL THE OFFICE OF UNDER-SECRETARY ROBINSON AND PROBABLY SECRETARY BUTZ TO DETERMINE THE OFFICIAL U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIS CANDIDACY. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT DEPT OF STATE IS APPROPRIATE PLACE TO OBTAIN POLITICAL GUIDANCE OF THIS SORT, BUT WILL LOOK TO SECRETARY BUTZ AS POTENTIAL REFERENCE ON HIS CREDENTIALS.

4. IF UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON IS AVAILABLE ON THOSE DAYS, IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT HE RECEIVE TANCO AND ADVISE HIM ON U.S. POSITION. IF NOT, IT IS REQUESTED THAT HIS OFFICE ARRANGE TO HAVE APPROPRIATE SENIOR OFFICIAL DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH TANCO. CALL ON SECRETARY BUTZ WILL BE BASICALLY RENEWAL OF EXISTING FRIENDSHIP.

5. I TALKED WITH ED MARTIN ABOUT THE PROPOSITION WHEN HE WAS HERE BUT DO NOT RPT NOT HAVE FULL GRASP OF WHAT IS ENTAILED IN THIS UNDERTAKING. PLEASE PROVIDE SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ADVISE WHAT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR TANCO IN WASHINGTON.
SULLIVAN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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